The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, according to the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

Heroes can not make our liberties; they but reflect them.—J. A. Garfield.

WHOLE NO. 1013. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 26.

Labor Blamed For Farmers' Woes; Green Replies To Farm Board Head

Washington, Sept. 6.—Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., takes sharp issue with the statement issued by Mr. Alex. Legge, chairman Federal Farm Board, who declared in an address at the New York State Fair, Syracuse, that a part of the burdens imposed upon the farmers is due to increased labor rates. Mr. Green states that such a charge is neither justifiable nor accurate. He calls upon Mr. Legge as a matter of fairness and justice to the working people to correct this statement. Mr. Green telegraphed Mr. Legge as follows:

"I observe in copy of the address you will deliver at the New York State Grange meeting given to the press in advance for publication statement that much of the ills from which agriculture is suffering is largely due to the advance in labor rates. This statement is neither justifiable nor accurate. For that reason I trust as a matter of fairness and justice to the wage-earning class and the farmers of our country you will correct your statement. Since 1914 the cost of wages to employers has only changed five-tenths of 1 per cent. In 1914 employers in the United States paid 16.8 per cent of the wholesale price of their products to workers in wages. In 1927 they paid 17.3 per cent. Obviously your statement that 80 per cent of the wholesale price of many manufactured articles can be directly traced to somebody's pay envelope is incorrect. Since 1919 wages paid workers employed in manufacturing have only increased 11.4 per cent while output has increased 46.5 per cent. As 2.9 per cent fewer workers were employed productivity has increased 53.5 per cent. It is apparent wage earners are not responsible for farmers' troubles. Their wages have not increased in proportion to what they produce. Eighty per cent of the consumers of this country are composed of wage earners and their families. They spend 55 per cent of the nation's income. They make up very largely the customers to whom farmers look for consumers of their products. It would be a calamity if this portion of the consuming market was destroyed through the establishment of low-wage rates."

LaFollette Is Leading Progressive Green Pleads To Wisconsin Labor

Washington, Sept. 6.—"Philip M. La Follette is one of the nation's leading progressives and should be elected governor of Wisconsin," said Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., in a letter to Henry Ohl, Jr., president Wisconsin Federation of Labor.

"The A. F. of L.," said Mr. Green, "is deeply interested in the election of governors, members of Congress, and State Legislatures. Because of this fact our attention has been attracted to the equipment, the point of view and the attitude of candidates for nomination for governor of the State of Wisconsin. In reviewing the situation it seems clear to me that there should be no question as to the attitude of Labor toward the candidates for Governor in the State of Wisconsin. An appraisement of the political and social outlook of these candidates, their political training and environment should make it clear to working men and women that their interests would best be served through the nomination of Philip M. La Follette for governor of Wisconsin.

"He is a sturdy progressive, fearless in his advocacy of human rights, fair and just in his consideration of the problems of industry, possessed of a heart and mind that is friendly and sympathetic towards the aims and purposes of organized labor.

"Philip M. La Follette stands out as one who should be numbered among the leading, progressive men of the country. I am confident that the highest and best interests of the masses of the people in Wisconsin will be served through the nomination and election of Mr. La Follette. For that reason I earnestly recommend that he be given the support of Labor and its friends in the primary election which will be held within the near future."

WAGE CUTS INCREASE; BUYING POWER LESS

Washington, Sept. 6.—Wage cuts have followed unemployment, says the A. F. of L. Monthly Survey of Business, September issue.

The "gradual rise in the number of firms cutting wages since December, last year" is reported.

"There has been a widespread appreciation of the necessity, of high wages to create purchasing power," the Bulletin states. "The number of employes affected by wage cuts have been very much smaller this year than in 1924. Even though the depression of 1930 has been worse than in 1924, manufacturers have been less influenced by the fallacy that wage reductions would solve their problems. They did not immediately cut wages.

"But the rapid increase of wage cuts in July shows a dangerous tendency. Workers' incomes have been reduced by unemployment and part-time work more than in 1924. Just at this time when all eyes are turned to the retail market, and wholesale buyers are hesitating to see whether their customers will purchase enough to justify new orders from manufacturers, workers' ability to buy will probably turn the tide. It will largely determine whether business starts upward or stays in the present depressed condition for the winter months.

"To the least we can do in the present situation is to avoid wage cuts and maintain workers' buying power at the highest possible level."

CHILD HEALTH SUFFERS IN RAINLESS DISTRICTS

Washington, Sept. 6.—Infant mortality may show an increase in drouth-stricken areas, says the United States Children's Bureau.

The drouth, accompanied by heat, has caused quantities of milk to sour more readily, has dried up streams and caused a pollution of water in many places, thus resulting in sickness and the spread of disease. Cows have been forced to eat poison herbs which in instances have poisoned the milk.

LUMBER WORKERS FACING WAGE CUT

Klamath Falls, Ore., Sept. 6.—Organized labor protests against the proposed 10 and 15 per cent wage cut by lumber mills and logging corporations.

These concerns smashed trade unions during the World War and installed a company "union" called the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen. The Four L's was supposed to be the last word in solving industrial questions, but has long since been discredited.

BILLION FOR BUILDING URGED TO AID JOBLESS

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 6.—A resolution requesting President Hoover to call a special session of Congress for the purpose of appropriating $1,000,000,000 for public construction to relieve unemployment was unanimously passed by the State Federation of Labor convention.

IDLE WAGE WORKERS IS WORLD-WIDE ISSUE

Washington, Sept. 6.—Governments, employers and employes in every country are discussing the unemployment problem, said Ethelbert Stewart, United States Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

"Industrial leaders evidently are being impressed with the fact that when they turn out a number of workers their own business will eventually suffer," said Mr. Stewart.

"These industrialists are awakening to the knowledge that men who can not work can not buy and that an industry can not produce when it can not market its goods.

"While consideration is being given various relief measures in the United States, legislation for unemployment insurance and other forms of stabilization has not been adopted by the States.

"The gravity of the unemployment situation in many foreign countries has attracted the attention not only of governments and statesmen, but also of the press, organizations and persons."

WAGE CUTS OPPOSED BY STATE EXECUTIVE

Frankfort, Ky., Sept. 6.—"Neither long hours nor reduced pay should be tolerated," said Governor Sampson in recommending to heads of the various State Departments that preference to persons with families be given when vacancies are to be filled.

The governor said the economic condition of many Kentucky citizens is distressing because of the drought and unemployment. "This condition," he said, "will steadily become more pronounced as winter approaches."

The governor reiterated his suggestion that every State contractor "should be requested—even required —to pay fair wages for an eight-hour day."

Machine Is Changing Social Life; Nation Faces New Industrial Era

—FRANK MORRISON, Secretary A. F. of L.

Baltimore, Sept. 6.—"We are at the beginning of a new era because of mergers, combines and displacing machinery and centralized, banking that controls credit," said Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L., at the Labor Day celebration held under the auspices of the Baltimore Federation of Labor.

"Machinery in industry lightens labor, but often eliminates labor," said Mr. Morrison. "More than this, it destroys skill that has been acquired through generations of workers and eliminates pride in craftsmanship and creative faculties that distinguish skilled workers. This is more than an individual loss. It is a social loss because the worker, if he does not pass to the unemployed ranks, secures employment at less competitive process where skill and initiative are unnecessary.

"From the standpoint of dividends and high output, there is no question that mechanization is a success, but the spiritual values a skilled worker loses, and the passing of a social sentiment based on craft pride and independence can well be considered.

"We are living in a new world.

PRACTICE, NOT PRETENSE, COUNTS

Sly wage reductions by employers who profess faith in high wages is the same policy these employers apply in opposing trade unionism.

These employers rarely openly attack organized labor. The exception is in areas that are dominated by mill barons and coal-owning feudalists.

Would-be oligarchs are more cautious in other sections of the country. They do not frankly challenge organized labor because of a public sentiment that trade unionists have developed.

These anti-unionists either attempt to drug the workers or let an injunction judge smash trade unionism under the plea of "protecting property."

The anti-unionists profess to favor organization of workers—provided, of course, the union "is run right."

This stamps the oligarch as a "progressive" among non-thinkers and secret foes of organized labor.

But more important, it paves the way for the company "union" and welfare schemes that are intended to weaken the militancy and deaden the spirit of trade unionists.

This crafty scheme, together with government by injunction, is now the general rule among anti-union employers who have abandoned such crude methods as the militia to bayonet strikers.

Preaching high wages and at the same time reducing wages is the latest "red herring" system of industrial employers.

They loudly proclaim their faith in high wages. They thunder from the house tops the value of a high purchasing power.

They are interviewed and photographed by the public press while they apply their creeping wage reductions and gradual layoffs that intensify unemployment.

Trade unionists and sympathizers should not be tricked by wordy abstractions.

Practice, not pretense, counts.

LOW BUYING POWER CHECKS UP TREND

Boston, Sept. 6.—The First National Bank, in its summary of business, agrees that low wages is behind the depression.

The bank does not bluntly make this statement, but dresses the thought in the lingo of economists:

"The crux of the present economic situation is the lack of proper balance between production and consumption and the maladjustment between the purchasing power of various classes of producers, agricultural as well as industrial, in practically all the countries of the world."

OUT-OF-WORK BENEFITS FAVORED BY GOVERNOR

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 6.—An unemployment insurance system, supervised by the State, was advocated by Governor Roosevelt in an address to the State Federation of Labor convention.

The plan would be along the lines of the British system whereby the State, employer and employe would be joint premium payers.

Unemployment is more serious than at any time since 1893 and the example of other countries in undertaking a government program "to alleviate the distress of fluctuating employment" must be followed, the governor said.

Admitting that conservatives may call him a "Bolshevik," the governor asserted that the powerful Electric Company and other large corporations have inaugurated systems of unemployment insurance.

"If they are doing it," he said, "is it radical or communistic or Bolshevistic for us to do it as part of a humanitarian movement?"

The governor said that most civilized countries have undertaken a government-supervised program to alleviate unemployment and that the United States is "behind the procession."

"You and I," he continued, "are aware of two very definite facts. The first is that reckless and deceptive promises that this country would never again have widespread unemployment have not only not been fulfilled, but, broadly speaking, the unemployment situation is more serious than at any time since 1893.

"Secondly, we are fully aware that the inadequacy of our industrial system makes it increasingly difficult for any man or woman past 40 years old to find a new job."

LESS FARMS IN NEW YORK

Washington, Sept. 6.—There were 28,634, or 15.2 per cent fewer farms in New York State on April 1, 1930, than on January 1, 1925, according to the Census Bureau. The decrease between 1920 and 1930 was 33,075 farms, or 17.1 per cent.

Boys and girls, together with their parents, who worked on these farms, have shifted to industrial centers to increase the number of wage workers.

NON-UNION COAL COMPANY PLANS $1,200,000 HOLD UP

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 6.—The Pittsburgh Coal Company demands that home owners of Mt. Lebanon, a suburb of this city, pay $1,200,000 for permitting coal props to remain in the coal lands owned by the company.

The company mined the coal under these houses, leaving a comparatively few columns of coal to support the mine roof. If these pillars are removed, the land will sag and destroy the homes. The company offers to sell the coal for $1,200,000. More than 3,000 home owners are affected.

Western Pennsylvania is aroused over this attempted hold-up and every Pittsburgh newspaper condemns the proposal of a concern that has total assets of $171,575,321.

The Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph says:

"This is the same Pittsburgh Coal Company that broke its contract with the United Mine Workers, the same company that subsidized the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce endeavored to give the appearance of disinterested service to its own selfish machinations. It is the same coal company that employed the Coal and Iron Police to beat John Borkowski to death."

The coal company was a leader in the movement to smash the Jacksonville agreement with the United Mine Workers that it and other leading coal concerns signed.

The repudiation of the agreement was marked by a long and bitter strike in which methods were used against the workers that parallel the company's attempted gouge of Mt. Lebanon citizens.

BAD WORK CONDITIONS BREEDER FOR "REDS"

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 6.—Former Secretary of State Elihu Root's suggestion that a special Federal police force be created to fight Communism is not favored by the Paper Makers' Journal.

Communists breed under bad work conditions, and Mr. Root, "the cleverest of corporation lawyers" has not been conspicuous in leading the forces of reform to abolish iniquities, says this labor journal.

"Communism in this country has never been able to rise above the rank of a second degree nuisance; and it reaches that height only when the police in our great cities lose their heads—plus the greed of employers like Southern textile mills and the Mellonized coal interests of Pennsylvania.

"If Communism were a menace, Mr. Root recommends the worst possible way of meeting it. Czarist Russia leaned more heavily on police repression than any other modern state except, perhaps, kaiserist Prussia.

"If a special Panama police force had been employed to swat mosquitoes, how long would it take to build the Panama canal?

Mr. Root may know mathematics to figure it out; we do not. But when General Gorgas cleaned up the breeding places of mosquitoes, building the big ditch became an ordinary engineering job.

"Communism breeds in the swamp of unemployment, the mire of low wages, the stagnant marsh of industrial inactivity. Wipe out these and the country will automatically become immune to Soviet propaganda."

RUSSIA CAN CONTROL HER INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Washington, Sept. 6.—"The A. F. of L. does not seek discrimination against Russia products because we are not in sympathy with their political theory," said Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., writing as editor of American Federationist.

The A. F. of L. asked the State Department to enforce the law against convict goods in the case of a shipment of pulp wood destined for this country that was produced by Russian convict labor.

"We believe that Russia must make her own internal decisions," said Mr. Green. "The A. F. of L. believes it fundamental that free institutions must be preserved and that we must protect them against menace from all sources. We are urging the application of a general principle—to protect free workers against competition with unfree labor."

RAILROADS OPPOSE 8 HOURS FOR LABOR

New York, Sept. 6.—Railroads in this State will attack the Dunsmore bill which provides an eight-hour day for workers employed on the elimination of grade crossings. The railroads plan to oppose the clause that provides for "the prevailing rate of wages."

This construction work involves the expenditure of several million dollars.

The railroads insist that the law contravenes the constitutional clause granting interstate commerce powers to Congress alone, and that it abrogates the right of contract.

LABOR DAY IN SOUTH

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 6.—Labor Day was observed in Southern cities that heretofore ignored this day, said Paul J. Smith, chairman A. F. of L. Southern organizing campaign.

The educational efforts of organized labor have acquainted Southern citizens with the purposes of trade unionism, said Mr. Smith.

UNION SMASHING PLAN FAILS IN COAL TRADE

Wheeling, W. Va., Sept. 6.—The anti-union policy of West Virginia, Kentucky and eastern Ohio operators has not solved the coal problem, or will it," declares the Wheeling News, in a leading editorial. The newspaper says wage cutting continues in these deunionized areas.

"It seemed last falls and last winter that the misery of the coal miner and his family had reached the limit, but the misery has sunk below even the level of last year's operation," says the News.

"The latest important coal activity to make a cut is the Consolidation Company, with a 12 per cent reduction. Its reason is the various cuts by competitive mines in the same territory.

"These operators claimed their difficulties were overcome when they eliminated the union. As a matter of fact, they found that the union was to a very large degree, the principal protection of the fair coal operator against the hog. In every industry there are some men who want to do all the business; they want to destroy competitors. They are almost invariably price cutters. Having cut the price to get a large contract, they fall back upon their helpless workmen to make up the losses. A few months later another price cutter comes along, the price is again cut, and again the workmen have to pay."

LABOR DAY FOUNDER HONORED BY UNIONS

Philadelphia, Sept. 6.—The memory of Peter J. McGuire, union carpenter and founder of Labor Day, was honored by trade unionists who journeyed to Arlington Cemetery, Camden, N. J., where the trade union pioneer sleeps.

McGuire was active in the local labor movement and was a member of Carpenters' Union No. 1. He was secretary Brotherhood of Carpenters and Vice President A. F. of L.

As a delegate to the New York central body he made the motion in old Clarendon hall, that city, in 1882 setting aside the first Monday in September as labor's holiday.

Two years later the plan was approved by the A. F. of L. It was later approved by the various states and by the United States Congress, which has jurisdiction over the District of Columbia and territories.

BUTCHER WORKMEN UNITE

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 6.—Butcher workmen here are organized by John Malone, representative of that international.

THREE-DAY WEEK IN INDUSTRY, PREDICTS BRITISH OFFICIAL

Baltimore, Sept. 6.—"The three-day week in industry and high wages is the solution for our world-wide depression," said Sir William Jowitt, Attorney General of England, in an address this city with British and French lawyers who are touring the United States.

"There will be ups and downs in the world-wide economic situation, but there will be no permanent recovery from the present depression until the work week is drastically cut and wages are increased," said Sir William.

"The world-wide depression is due to overproduction, or, rather, underconsumption. Men and machines have produced goods faster than they have been consumed—the pyramiding in our country in recent years, for example, has been terrific, and the cure will come only when adjustment of consumption to production has been effected.

"The upward trend of trade in the immediate future will results from depletion of stocks of goods turned out in the past at a rate faster than that of world consumption. But the permanent cure will not come until the adjustment I mentioned is made. I believe men all over the world eventually will work but three days a week, but will be paid high wages in order that they may consume the goods they produce."

LABOR FACES STERN REALITIES; NATION MUST SOLVE IDLE ISSUE

—WM. GREEN, President A. F. of L.

Syracuse, N. Y., Sept. 6.—Present-day economic problems are in line with social developments and constant change, declared Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., in a Labor Day speech in this city. "It is labor, however, that faces the stern realities of life," he said.

"There is no period when society is free to think and act only in terms of absolute relaxation, recreation and tranquility," said Mr. Green.

"When conditions are approximately normal all groups of people seem automatically compelled to grapple with some phase of a difficult human, social or economic problem. These involve questions of income, suitable employment, hours, conditions, poverty (due to various causes), social justice and collateral questions which develop out of our modern industrial and social life.

"But it is labor, individually as well as collectively, that is face to face with the more stern realities which characterize all phases of our Nation's economic and social problems.

"Only those who are forced to balance a family budget with a limited, and, perhaps, inadequate income, can appreciate the mental and physical distress which such an experience involves.

"Those who know and understand the heart and mind of labor, and who have undergone experiences associated with it can understand its difficulties and the underlying motives which inspire it to struggle for the enjoyment of a better day and a better life."

President Green declared that there is no reason for present-day unemployment, he said, can be stabilized in private industry through scientific production, sales methods and planning over long periods. An annual income, instead of the present system, was also favored.

"In seasonal industries," said Mr. Green, "funds can be jointly created out of which workers can be paid weekly income during unemployment. All of this can be supplemented by systematic expenditure of public funds for building and government construction.

"With all our vast resources to draw upon and with a determination to regularize private industry so that as steady, fixed annual income can be guaranteed to workers, the problem of unemployment can be overcome. The continuation of this uneconomic state of affairs stands as a challenge to our ability and resourcefulness to successfully deal with problems which unremittingly yield for a just and rational solution.

"If there is any nation possessing the facilities and is peculiarly fitted to solve the problem of unemployment, it is our own favored country. There can be no hope for a solution of the problem in other countries, if we fail or if we admit failure."

GLIB TALK CAN'T END CAPITALIST SYSTEM

Nottingham, England, Sept. 6.—"If glib talk could end it, the capitalist system would be finished in a year or two," said President John Beard of the British Trades Union Congress, in opening the annual conference here.

The unionist answered attacks on the British Labor government by the Independent Labor Party, left wing of the British Labor party. The "lefts" oppose Premier MacDonald because he does not install Socialism.

President Beard declared there is no present substitute for capitalism. He repudiated the "lefts" slogan "socialism in our time."

"I am not certain," said Beard, "that there is any kind of organization capable of working the change without tremendous dislocation of the social and economic life of the nation.

The task of the labor movement, he said, is to build a new road for progress without obstructing traffic on the road. He said the "lefts" are obstructors.

"Let us keep the ideals we have always held, but let us be realistic with regard to the actual world situation," he said.

The American Federation of Labor is represented at the trade union conference by Fraternal Delegates John J. Manning and Thomas E. Maloy.

PRESSMEN'S CHIEF URGES SHORT WEEK

Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 6.—The shorter work week to relieve unemployment was urged by George L. Berry, president International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' union, at a Labor Day address here.

The unionist pleaded for abolition of child labor not only because of the physical and moral evils of child labor but because of unfair competition with breadwinners.

Blame for the business depression was placed on automatic machinery and displacement of labor, to "the extraordinary ingenuity in financing business" which has "created a condition of economic situation," and to "post-war arrogance of American business which has reduced export trade."

PINCHOT IS PLEDGED TO OUST COAL POLICE

Altoona, Pa., Sept. 6.—Former Governor Pinchot pledged, at a Labor Day speech here, that if he is elected governor he will abolish the coal and iron police system in this State before July 1 next year.

He also pledged to urge the next legislature to enact an old age pension law and he promised to appoint a commission on unemployment that will make recommendations next January to the State Legislature. He will appoint the commission before he is inaugurated. He said he will not wait for the legislature to act on the coal and iron police but will wipe out the system by the simple expedient of refusing to sign any commissions for the appointment of any of these officials.

Under the law the commissions of all these special policemen expire with the passing from office of a governor and new commissions must be issued by the incoming governor.

"I here repeat in this my pledge," said Mr. Pinchot, "that if I am elected governor of this State there will not be, on July 1, next year, a single coal and iron policeman left in Pennsylvania."

JEWISH CLERGYMEN LAUD TRADE UNIONS

Baltimore, Sept. 6.—American rabbis, in their yearly plea for social justice, declare that organized labor is "perhaps the most potent of all forces for securing hours and wages requisite for neutralizing unemployment and for the civic and spiritual development of the worker."

The message was issued by the Commission on Social Justice of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and will be read from Jewish pulpits.

The conference approves the five-day week and high wages.

"If our country constantly improving machinery with its displacement of human workers is not to produce unemployment and its attendant evils, it must be used to reduce the number of working days a week be reduced; there must also be a diminution of the number of working hours a day with corresponding increases of wage rates, enabling all workers to earn sufficiently," the Commission states.

"The issue of organized labor brings to mind the disheartening developments at Elizabethton, Marion and Gastonia as well as the spirit of social endeavor with which Jewish, Protestant and Catholic religious leaders have, during the past year, joined in applying to the turmoil their common principles of brotherly love. It is our profound hope that these principles may be used to unify their common principles of brotherly love. It is our profound hope that these principles may be used to unify their common principles of brotherly love. It is our profound hope that these principles may be used to unify